

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3589

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG BGEN IR
SUBJ: NIOC/CONSORTIUM NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 2639

1. ROUND TWO OF THE TALKS BETWEEN NIOC AND THE CONSORITUM OVER THE REVISION OF THE 1973 SALES AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT BEGAN IN TEHRAN YESTERDAY AND IS SCHEDULED TO LAST FOR TWO WEEKS. BY THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION, THE AREAS OF BOTH AGREEMENT AND DISPUTE SHOULD BE WELL DEFINED; AND IT MAY THEN BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN TO DISCERN WHAT SHAPE THE FINAL AGREEMENT WILL HAVE. HOWEVER, THE LOCAL CONSORTIUM REP BELIEVES THAT NEGOTS WILL NOT BE CONCLUDED UNTIL THIS FALL.

2. DESPIT THE CORDIAL ATOMSPHERE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE NEGOTS THUS FAR, THE GOI MAY HAVE BEGUN A LOCAL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AGAINST THE CONSORTIUM. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE TEHRAN JOURNAL, PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL TODAY WHICH REPEATED AND AMPLIFIED CHARGES MADE BY THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY'S DEP SECYGEN AMELI THAT WESTERN INDUSTRIAL OR OIL SYNDICATES ARE ENGAGED IN THE PROMULGATION OF UNTRUTHS ABOUT IRAN. NEITHER AMELI NOR THE JOURNAL'S EDITORIAL IDENTIFIED JUST
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WHICH WESTERN INDUSTRIAL OR OIL SYNDICATES ARE THE CULPRITS; NOR DID THEY SPECIFY THE TYPE OF UNTRUTHS WHICH ARE BEING SPREAD. HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT QUOTE IN THE PAST SUCH COMPANIES SOUGHT TO SUCK IRAN DRY OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES END QUOTE CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THE CONSORTIUM AS THE BAD GUYS.

3. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT, IF ANYTHING, INSPIRED AMELI'S AND THE

JOURNAL'S THINLY VEILED ATTACK; BUT, WE WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHING
TO SEE IF IT WAS AN ISOLATED, INSIGNIFICANT OCCURANCE OR
WHETHER IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO
DISCREDIT AND BRING PRESSURE ON THE CONSORTIUM.
SULLIVAN

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